

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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I decided, since we have a little time to open, I'm going to go a little different route. When I began my law practice, I had the good fortune of being taken under the wing of some people who did a lot of work engineering and building equipment for the meat packing industry and so I came to have clients in that area and I came to work in that industry. Let me hasten to add, so that if there were anyone cynical among us, you will understand that I have no meat packing clients at the present time, have not had for a number of years. And while it's easy to assume that a lawyer from Omaha, Nebraska, who once had some contacts with the meat packing industry, is offering this amendment because the meat packers want it, and maybe and probably they do, I'm going to tell you that isn't what I woke up thinking about this morning. There is a problem, in my judgment, for whatever that's worth, in our livestock industry, there is a problem with the concentration of power and leverage in the packing industry. I have, from my casual vantage point, observed it over time. And, if I were in Senator Dierks' shoes, I would regard my effort as hostile, but I, in my heart, it is not hostile. I, as I said, I supported Initiative 300, I still do support Initiative 300. It has amused me and it has been enjoyable to have several colleagues come to me on the floor and say they agree with me. The case against Initiative 300 and how it will affect at us adversely economically and agriculturally has not been made. What really bothers me about LB 835 that it...is that in trying to be so quick, so out-front, so first in the nation, I'm worried that we're going to be out-front, first, and all alone. Trade protectionism throughout the course of history has not been particularly successful and it has often had dire consequences for those who advocated it and engaged in it. It's kind of like being the first to put up the fences on the open range. I'm not certain it always benefits everyone the way we think it will. I am concerned that with regard to LB 835 we are going to be first, and our livestock industry and our agricultural economy are going to be injured by virtue of doing it. AM1196 does nothing more than allow for the national effort, which I suspect every member of this body is aware of, to take shape. And it seems to me that if we can all together, all states together who have an interest in resolving the problems which are being addressed by LB 835, if we can all together come together at the same point in time, we will be better off. Prices are currently being reported to